

Dennis R. Sigl

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In the Specification

Amend paragraph [0032] as follows:

Accordingly, the assembly of the gas valve 44 can now be explained. The gas valve 44 can be assembled to the rear panel 16 by simply inserting the gas valve 44 into the receptacle 30 such that the hexagonal configuration of the gas inlet body 48 fits snugly into the hexagonal configuration of the receptacle 30 while the inlet port 46 automatically aligns with the opening 34 in the rear panel 16 to be accessible for connection to a source of shielding gas external of the welding apparatus 10. As the gas valve 44 is finally seated in the desired position within the receptacle 30 the barbs 38 at the distal ends of the fingers 36 snap over the ~~external rear surface 52 of the housing 50~~ gas inlet body 48 so as to retain the gas valve 44 within the receptacle 30.